

**CLAIMS:**

5 What is claimed is:

1. A method of defining mirroring maps for use with  
different pieces of data comprising the steps of:

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creating the mirroring maps;

naming the mirroring maps; and

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storing the names of the mirroring maps and the  
mirroring maps for future use with the different pieces  
of data.

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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein a mirroring map is used  
with a piece of data by associating the name of the  
mirroring map with the piece of data.

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3. The method of Claim 2 wherein existing mirroring maps  
may be displayed when selecting a mirroring map to  
associate with a piece of data.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein a mirroring map may be  
created for facilitating striping a piece of data.

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5. The method of Claim 4 wherein a partition may be  
specified when storing data in a mirroring map.

6. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for defining mirroring maps for use with different pieces of data comprising:
- 5        code means for creating the mirroring maps;
- code means for naming the mirroring maps; and
- 10      code means for storing the names of the mirroring maps and the mirroring maps for future use with the different pieces of data.
7. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein a mirroring map is used with a piece of data by associating the name of the mirroring map with the piece of data.
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8. The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein existing mirroring maps may be displayed when selecting a mirroring map to associate with a piece of data.
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9. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein a mirroring map may be created for facilitating striping a piece of data.
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10. The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein a partition may be specified when storing data in a mirroring map.
- 30    11. An apparatus for defining mirroring maps for use with different pieces of data comprising:

means for creating the mirroring maps;

means for naming the mirroring maps; and

5 means for storing the names of the mirroring maps and  
the mirroring maps for future use with the different  
pieces of data.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein a mirroring map is  
10 used with a piece of data by associating the name of  
the mirroring map with the piece of data.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein existing mirroring  
maps may be displayed when selecting a mirroring map to  
15 associate with a piece of data.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein a mirroring map may  
be created for facilitating striping a piece of data.

20 15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein a partition may be  
specified when storing data in a mirroring map.

16. A computer system for defining mirroring maps for use  
with different pieces of data comprising:

25 at least a memory device for storing code data; and

30 at least a processor for processing said code data for  
creating the mirroring maps, naming the mirroring maps,  
and storing the names of the mirroring maps and the  
mirroring maps for future use with the different pieces  
of data.

17. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein a mirroring map is used with a piece of data by associating the name of the mirroring map with the piece of data.

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18. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein existing mirroring maps may be displayed when selecting a mirroring map to associate with a piece of data.

10 19. The computer system of Claim 18 wherein a mirroring map may be created for facilitating striping a piece of data.

15 20. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein a partition may be specified when storing data in a mirroring map.